



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Berlin Job Center to Remain Open; Partnership with ADVOCAP Allows Vital Community Resource to Continue**

As a new fiscal year began on July 1, the Berlin Job Center, 237 Broadway Street in Berlin, was to close permanently due to reductions to workforce development funds in our region. Thanks to a commitment from ADVOCAP the doors to the center will remain open.

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB), Neenah, Wis., receives the bulk of its funding from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the US Department of Labor. The annual allocation of dollars to all state workforce boards is based on a complex formula of population and unemployment numbers. Due to record low unemployment in our area, the Board experienced a \$400,000 cut to its funding this year and steps had to be taken to reduce costs, which meant reducing services.

“Once we knew the situation, we began to speak with our community partners to see if there was anything we could do together to keep the Berlin Job Center open,” said Anthony Snyder, CEO of the Board. “This is where the ADVOCAP connection came in.”

ADVOCAP, an area leader in employment and training opportunities, has offered to staff the Berlin Job Center with volunteers managed by the ADVOCAP staff.

“It’s too important for a city like Berlin not to have access to the services at a Job Center,” said Mike Bonertz, ADVOCAP’s executive director. “While our unemployment rate is low and the economy seems to be booming, there are still countless individuals in our rural areas that need a hand up in their job search.”

Originally the Board planned to close the center permanently on July 1. This commitment from ADVOCAP will allow the Berlin Job Center to re-open as a self-service center on Monday, July 22. As soon as volunteers can be sourced and trained, additional assistance will become available. The Berlin Job Center will be open 10 am – 3 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Changes to hours and information on other job centers in our region are found at [www.foxvalleyjobcenters.com](http://www.foxvalleyjobcenters.com).

Know someone interested in volunteering to help keep the Berlin Job Center open? Contact ADVOCAP at (920) 426-0150 and ask to speak with Lori Boushele or email [lorib@advocap.org](mailto:lorib@advocap.org). It’s a great opportunity to give back!

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**Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB)** is a not-for-profit working to build a world-class workforce in northeast Wisconsin. Serving six counties — Calumet, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago — FVWDB collaborates with a number of state and local agencies to help job seekers gain the skills needed to find employment, and to help businesses find the highly skilled workers they need.

**ADVOCAP**, a non-profit community action agency, was founded in 1966 to fight poverty within our local communities. We do this by designing and implementing programs that empower people in Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Winnebago counties to break the cycle of

poverty. Individuals and families build on their strengths and participate in opportunities that will develop the knowledge and skills they need to strengthen their economic future.

*ADVOCAP and FVWDB are Equal Opportunity Employers and Service Providers.*

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